

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

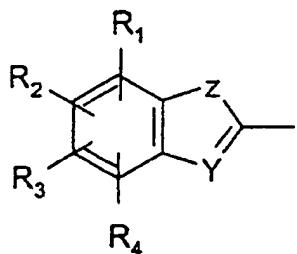
Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): In a method for selectively enriching/removing a serum albumin from a mixture of other compounds by contacting said mixture with a ligand (= X), the improvement comprising said ligand

- a) having affinity for and enabling binding of the serum albumin and
- b) being attached via a spacer (= B) to a base matrix (= M') insoluble in the aqueous media used, the matrix with the attached ligand being represented by

M-B-X

where M is the matrix, B is the spacer and X the affinity ligand, with the provision that M may contain further groups X linked via a spacer, wherein said ligand X has been selected among serum albumin-binding structures complying with the formulae



in which

- a) the free valence bind to the spacer B;
- b) R_{1-4} are selected from hydrogen, electron-withdrawing groups, such as halogens and lower alkyl groups (C_{1-10}) that possibly are substituted with electron withdrawing groups, such as halogens;
- c) Z and Y are selected among oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen, with the provision that the nitrogen may carry a positive charge.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein contact between the mixture and the media M-B-X is done in an aqueous media having a pH at which the -B-X carries a positive charge.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of $R1-4R_{1-4}$ exhibit an electron withdrawing group, preferably selected among halogens such as fluorine.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the spacer has a sulphur atom next to X.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein Z and Y are nitrogens, one of which binding to a hydrogen and the ligand structure being charged depending of pH.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said mixture derives from a host in which said serum albumin is human serum albumin.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said ligand is attached covalently to said matrix.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein after the adsorption step said serum albumin is eluted from said affinity adsorbent and if necessary further processed.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): A method for screening ligands structures that, when attached to an affinity matrix, selectively bind albumin, characterized that water-soluble compounds that exhibit a benzene ring fused to a 5-membered heterocycle containing two or three heteroatoms, preferably two, selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur after having been attached to a matrix, preferably in the 2-position, are screened for selective binding to albumin.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The method of claim 9, characterized in that screening is taking place in aqueous solutions at a pH at which the ligand structure including and spacer binding to the matrix is positively charged.
